Fast Track Policy for Power Sector

201. DR. T SUBBARAMY REDDY : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement fast track policies to improve power sector; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed measures being considered by the government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) To improve the performance of the power sector quickly, Government have initiated various steps which, *inter-alia*, include addition of capacity, encouraging private sector participation in power generation, better demand side management, energy conservation measures, renovation and modernisation of existing plants, reduction of transmission and distribution losses and effective utilisation of generation capacity by transfer of power from surplus regions, if any, to deficit regions through inter-regional links. Besides this, powers have been delegated to shorten the project development/clearance period and the clearance procedure streamlined. A scheme of concessional lending to State Electricity Boards/State Government Corporations/State Power Departments has been finalised wherein 4 per cent interest subsidy will be given for programmes covering Renovation and Modernisation and life extension/rehabilitation, ongoing projects nearing completion, missing transmission links and System improvement.

Loans/Assistance to Assam

202. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) the details of the loans/financial assistance provided by the Union Government to hospital projects in Assam during each of the last three years;

(b) the terms and conditions on which these allocations have been made;

(c) whether the Government have received any further request from the Government of Assam for financial assistance for the expansion and development of medical colleges and hospitals in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) 'Health' being a State subject, it is for the State Government to take steps for providing financial assistance to hospital projects. However, the planning Commission has released Rs. 200.00 lakhs as additional grant for the upgradation of Guwahati Medical College, Guwahati during 1996-97.

(c) to (e) The Expert Team visited Guwahati Medical College and Hospital, Guwahati to make technical assessment for its upgradation. The team recommended phased development of the College. Priority areas were to coast Rs. 10 crores. On a request of Minister of Health and Family Welfare of Assam, an Expert team was deputed to visit Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh and make technical assessment. The team recommended immediate and long term steps for the upgradation of this college at an estimated cost of Rs. 71.00 crores. There is no scheme in the Ministry under which assistance can be provided to the State Government for upgradation of Medical Colleges. However, the Report of the Expert Team is being sent to the Planning Commission for making provisions of additional funds for the purpose through State Health Sector Plan Budget of the State Government.

Physician in CGHS Dispensary

203. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as compendium of CGHS, one male and one female physician should be posted in each of the CGHS Unani Dispensary/Unit;

(b) if so, whether the dispensary of CGHS Unani system in Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi is functioning without a female physician and if so, since when; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to provide a female physician in that dispensary.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A female physician has already been posted in the CGHS Unani Dispensary at Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi.

(c) Question does not arise in view of (b) above.

[Translation]

Facility at PHC

204. SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR RAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide internet facility at primary health centres;

(b) whether efforts are being made to attract foreign experts in India to provide the above facility; and